

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

SESSION 1

“Why does Membership in the local church matter?”

PROCESS

Informal vs. Formal Membership Process

Why is it a good idea for FBC to have a formal membership class?

Here's what this is going to look like:

- 2-3 Sessions - 2-3 Weeks
- Going from **9:45am-11:45am**

INTERACTIVE

What topics do you expect to be covered in these Membership sessions?

PURPOSE

During our time together, we want to set expectations for membership so that we are all on the same page about the purpose, role and mission of First Baptist Portland. You will become familiar with FBC Portland – gaining insights into our identity, how we - as a local church - come together to worship God, grow in discipleship and sanctification within our community, serve one another, and develop a Kingdom mindset.

We are excited about these sessions and our hope is that you and your family have an opportunity to learn who we are, and we have an opportunity to learn all about you.

WHY DOES MEMBERSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH MATTER?

Definition of a local church:

- A local church is a gathering of _____ or _____ disciples of Jesus Christ, encouraging one another and not neglecting to meet in His name regularly. **[Matthew 18:19-20; Hebrews 10:25]**

INTERACTIVE

Where are you from?

By looking around the room, you will notice two things:

- Portland is ***changing***.
- And, First Baptist is ***changing***.

The local church has a:

- _____ - to preach and teach the complete gospel of Jesus Christ and administer the church ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. **[Ephesians 5:19; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Matthew 28:19; and 1 Corinthians 11:17-26]**

- _____ - collectively grow in discipleship, sanctification, and unity around God's mission. [1 Peter 1:14-16; and Ephesians 4:14-16]
- and a _____ - bring glory to God by making disciples of Jesus Christ and sharing His gospel. – The Great Commission [Matthew 28:18-20; and Acts 1:8]

Membership Defined:

- The state of belonging to an organization/ all the people who belong to an organization.
- The state or status of being a member.

INTERACTIVE

Membership? - not so bad...

Church Membership? - squirmy and uneasy...

SIX REASONS WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

Membership in the local church is _____.

- The local church was given for the disciples of Jesus Christ to **grow in discipleship and sanctification**. [Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35]
- The local church was given to **meet the needs of its members** [widows & orphans] and the apostles of Jesus Christ [Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 6, 1 Timothy 5:9-12 implies that the church kept a list of widows - kind of like our shut-in ministry]
- The local church was given for **members to make a commitment – not just a casual association**. [Acts 5:12-13 – The local church in Jerusalem faced the decision of those who did not want to join them in a public setting for fear of persecution.]
- The local church was given for members to be “**sent out from**” – to go on mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ [Acts 13].
- The local church was given for disciples of Christ to **meet, pray and make decisions on behalf of the local church** [Acts 15].
- And last, we see the **establishment of leadership** in the local church. [1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4]

The local church is made up of _____. [1 Corinthians 12:12, 25-27]

- Paul refers to those who join the church as **members** of the body, emphasizing that each **members** plays a crucial role.

Membership in the local church is how we _____ Jesus. [John 13:35]

Membership in the local church is how we _____ other Christians. [Ephesians 4:11-16 and 25-32]

Membership in the local church helps Christian leaders _____. [Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2; Hebrews 13].

Membership in the local church enables church _____.

- Church discipline is rooted in Scripture and is provided for **correction** and **reconciliation** in the local church.